

## Message Text

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ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-06 VO-03 PPTE-00 FSI-04

A-01 PER-05 INSE-00 VA-01 /034 W

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4230

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS STUTTGART 0533

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: REGIONAL CONSULAR CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 068017 B) STUTTGART OM OF 2/18/77

PER REQUEST PARA 3 REFTTEL, STUTTGART WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF  
FOLLOWING ISSUES COULD BE ADDRESSED DURING CONFERENCE:

1. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION  
WILL BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS FOR SERVICES FROM BOTH  
FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS AND INDIVIDUAL VETERANS? SINCE SUBMISSION  
OF REF B TO THE DEPT. DETAILING THIS POST'S TRIALS AND  
TRIBULATIONS WITH THE VA, WE HAVE NOTED NO IMPROVEMENT IN THAT  
ORGANIZATION'S SERVICES - ESPECIALLY TIMELY RESPONSES - TO  
VETERANS ABROAD.

2. AT THE IN-COUNTRY GERMAN CONSULAR CONFERENCE LAST SEPTEMBER,  
THIS POST SUGGESTED THAT EITHER CONSULAR OFFICERS OR INS OFFICERS  
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ABROAD BE PERMITTED TO APPROVE FIANCEE/FIANCE VISA PETITIONS  
IN THE INTEREST OF SAVING TIME AND TROUBLE FOR PETITIONERS,  
BENEFICIARIES AND CONSULAR/INS OFFICERS ALIKE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY  
MIGHT BE WAIVER OF THE PETITIONING PROCESS ALTOGETHER IF THE  
CONSULAR OFFICER IS SATISFIED ON THE BASIS OF NOTARIZED STATEMENTS  
OR LETTERS FROM THE AMCIT FIANCEE/FIANCE THAT A POSSIBLE MARRIAGE  
IS IN THE OFFING. THE FIANCEE/FIANCE VISA APPLICANTS WOULD

CONTINUE TO BE DOCUMENTED IN EXACTLY THE SAME MANNER SAVE FOR THE I-129F PETITION.

3. THE POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING THE TECHNICAL AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OF VISA REVALIDATIONS AND TRANSFERS BY SIMPLY ISSUING THOSE VISAS FOR SCHEDULED VALIDITY OR WHATEVER VALIDITY THE CONSULAR OFFICERS DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

4. EXPANSION OF THE "PASSPORT-BY-MAIL" PROGRAM ABROAD.

5. THE POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING CONSULAR OFFICERS THE DISCRETIONARY POWER TO EXPEND U.S.G. FUNDS FOR PRESERVATION OF THE REMAINS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS UNTIL MONEY AND DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS ARE RECEIVED FROM THE NEXT-OF-KIN. IN CASES WHERE NEXT-OF-KIN ARE FINANCIALLY UNABLE, CONSIDERATION MIGHT ALSO BE GIVEN TO U.S.G. FUNDING OF THE PREPARATION AND RETURN OF REMAINS TO THE U.S. ON A "BURY NOW - REIMBURSE LATER" PLAN SIMILAR TO PRESENT REPATRIATION LOANS. CONSIDERATION SHOULD AT LEAST BE GIVEN TO GETTING DOD TO AGAIN CONSENT TO PREPARING AND TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS OF U.S. CITIZEN CIVILIANS AS IT DID PRIOR TO JUNE, 1976. THIS POST HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL COMPLAINTS FROM NOK ABOUT THE HIGH GERMAN MORTUARY AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS (E.G. \$2,800.00 TO \$3,400.00 IN AN AVERAGE CASE). THE SAME - EVEN BETTER - SERVICES COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. ARMY MORTUARY SERVICE, FRANKFURT FOR ROUGHLY \$800.00.

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6. UNLESS THE FEE CHARGED IS REQUIRED TO COVER ACTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, ELIMINATION OF THE \$25.00 PASSPORT WAIVER FEE FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO DEPART OR ENTER THE U.S. WITHOUT ANY OR WITHOUT A CURRENTLY VALID PASSPORT, ESPECIALLY IN CASES OF LEGITIMATE EMERGENCY. THE POST HAS ENCOUNTERED A NUMBER OF SUCH CASES AND, IN OUR EXPERIENCE, A LEGITIMATE EMERGENCY USUALLY EXISTS. IN ADDITION TO BEING AN ADDED IRRITANT TO THE CITIZEN IN TIME OF EMERGENCY, THE WAIVER FEE MIGHT ALSO BE CONSTRUED AS AN UNNECESSARY FINANCIAL RESTRICTION ON FREE TRAVEL.MILLER

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